Madam, there are two aspects to inflation. One is how to contain it immediately and another is how to prevent its recurrence in future so that it does not affect the economy. During the discussion on the Finance Bill, the Finance Minister had said that he would contain inflation. I had asked specifics on how to contain inflation. There are three specifics to contain inflation. One is to reduce expenditure. Under the present scenario, you cannot do that. Second aspect is to mobilise more resources. That too you cannot do under the present conditions. Last year also the Government could not mobilise resources. The present scenario is also not that buoyant and the conditions are not congenial. So, the question is how to overcome all these constraints. Therefore, I suggest call a meeting of all the political parties, take them into confidence and seek their advice. At least let there be a consensus on building the national economy.

Madam, I need not speak on the percentage of inflation. Every product has got its own percentage of price increase. While in some items there has been an increase by 50 per cent, in others it has been 30 per cent, 10 per cent or eight per cent. These are all facts. One thing the Government has to take note of is that unless it takes its management on a war footing, inflation will go on like an unbridled horse. You will not be able to manage the economy. Tentacles of inflation are spreading very fast and they are having a detrimental effect on our economy. Prices of onion, tomato etc. have gone up. It is said that it is a temporary phenomenon and that they can be contained, but if this trend continues, the target which the Government wants to achieve, will be very difficult to achieve. I advise the Government to introduce an efficient marketing system, have more cold storage network, which we had been planning to do during the Ninth Plan to store 50 lakh tonnes of vegetable and other perishable commodities. Unless you put your heart and soul into the problem, you are not going to solve the problem. Take it with all your seriousness. It is not that easy. Inflation is a very dangerous thing.

We are not at all confident that you are going to achieve the proposals which you have initiated in your Budget. So, the Essential Supplies and Maintenance Act can be made more stringent. You can instruct Chief Ministers to enforce this Act sincerely in order to control black marketing and hoarding. All possible steps should be taken to contain inflation.

The second aspect is that this should not have an adverse impact on the economy. The Government should take a note of it. The Government should be very sincere in fighting this menace.

Madam, I thank you for having given me this opportunity to speak.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

White Paper on Railway Projects

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): Madam, I want to lay the White Paper, listed as item No. 3 in the Papers to be laid on the Table. It is listed against my colleague, Shri Nitish Kumar. He could not come to the House because he is ill. I have already communicated it to the Secretariat.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, lay it.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Madam, on behalf of my colleague, Shri Nitish Kumar, I lay on the Table, a copy in English and Hindi of the White Paper on Railway projects. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 1397/98]